Remarks

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 6, 2006, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks. In the present application, claims 19-21 have been amended to clarify that the "event" is a user-specified event and that the "network address" is an Internet protocol address. Support for these amendments may be found on page 5, lines 18-28 and on page 9, lines 3-12 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooperman et al ("Cooperman", US 6,907,447) in view of Burg et al ("Burg", US 6,362,840). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooperman in view of Capps (US 2002/0111813).

Applicant's Statement of the Substance of the Interview

A brief telephonic interview between Applicant's representative Alton Hornsby, III (Registration No. 47,299) and the Examiner was held on May 2, 2006 to discuss the rejection of independent claims 19-21 in view of the cited references of record. In the interview, the representative pointed out that the cited references do not disclose events which are user-specified events nor a network address which is an Internet protocol address. The Examiner agreed and stated that he would consider amended claims incorporating the aforementioned features in Applicant's next amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 19 and 21

Claims 19 and 21 are rejected as being unpatentable over Cooperman in view of Burg. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 19 specifies a system for providing a notification that an event has occurred. The system includes a client computer comprising an output device, a memory, a central processing unit, and a storage device containing computer-readable instructions for execution on the central processing unit, the computer-readable instructions operative to cause the client computer to transmit a request to provide a notification in response to the occurrence of the event to each of a plurality of a server computers, the request comprising a description of the event corresponding to the server computer and a user identifier, to receive from each of the server computers a request to provide a notification that the event has occurred and to open a new user interface window for each request that is received to thereby display each notification, each notification comprising a description of the event, wherein the event is a user-specified event; a plurality of server computers each comprising a memory, a central processing unit, and a storage device containing computer-readable instructions for execution on the central processing unit of the server computer, the computer-readable instructions operative to cause the server computer to receive the request to provide a notification from the client computer, to determine whether the event has occurred, to identify a network address for the client computer based on the user identifier in response to determining that the event has occurred, wherein the network address is an Internet protocol address, and to transmit the request to the client computer to provide a notification that the event has occurred at the network address; and a billing server computer, and wherein at least one of the notifications that one of the events has occurred further comprises a hyperlink, and wherein the client computer is further operative to

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receive a selection of the hyperlink and, based on the selection, to place an order with the billing server computer.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Cooperman nor Burg, alone or in combination, teaches, discloses, or suggests each of the features specified in amended independent claim 19. For example, neither reference discloses providing notifications for user-specified events or identifying a network address which includes an Internet protocol (IP) address for a client computer in response to determining that a (user-specified) event has occurred. Instead, Cooperman discloses providing an instant message notification for branded messages received from a business partner. The messages may include stock quotes, product specials, or other information from the business partner. A user may change the conditions upon which the instant messages are transmitted by the business partner to the user. See Col. 3, lines 12-42. While Cooperman does disclose changing the conditions upon which branded messages from the business partner are received, the reference fails to disclose the ability to specify particular events a user wishes to be notified of. In Cooperman, all branded messages are transmitted from the business partner to a user (some may be subject to conditions but they all may be sent nonetheless). Moreover, Cooperman fails to disclose identifying a network address which includes an Internet protocol (IP) address for a client computer in response to determining that an event has occurred. Cooperman discloses providing a hyperlink in a branded message which, when selected, directs a Web browser to an Internet Web site provided by the business partner (col. 3, lines 29-34). There is no teaching or suggestion in Cooperman, however, that the hyperlink (the alleged network address) includes the IP address for a client computer (i.e., the user).

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In the Office Action, Burg is relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Cooperman. However, Burg also fails to disclose providing notifications for user-specified events or identifying a network address which includes an Internet protocol (IP) address for a client computer in response to determining that a (user-specified) event has occurred. Burg is merely concerned with creating computer graphic displays having a link area (see col. 1, lines 47-56). Therefore, based on the foregoing, amended independent claim 19 is allowable over Cooperman in view of Burg and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Amended independent claim 21 recites similar features as amended independent claim 19 and thus is also allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the rejection of this claim should also be withdrawn.

<div align="center">Claim 20</div>

Claim 20 is rejected as being unpatentable over Cooperman in view of Capps. The rejection of this claim is respectfully traversed. Amended independent claim 20 recites similar features as amended independent claim 19 (discussed above) and thus is allowable over Cooperman for at least the same reasons. Capps, relied upon to cure the deficiencies of Cooperman, merely discloses a system for automatically identifying persons and providing relative information. Capps fails to teach, disclose, or suggest providing notifications for user-specified events or identifying a network address which includes an Internet protocol (IP) address for a client computer in response to determining that a (user-specified) event has occurred. Therefore, claim 20 is also allowable over Capps for at least the aforementioned reasons. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn.
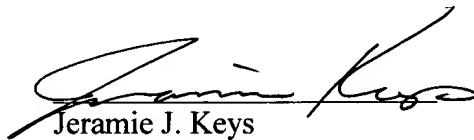
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

No fees are believed due beyond the fee for continued examination. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 22, 2006

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